
[4j_priority_mail] Return to Learning Update: Planning for hybrid model and limited in-person instruction in new year

From : Cydney Vandercar <vandercar_c@4j.lane.edu> Fri, Dec 11, 2020 07:00 PM
Sender : 4j_priority_mail <4j_priority_mail-bounces@4j.lane.edu>
Subject : [4j_priority_mail] Return to Learning Update: Planning for hybrid model and limited in-person instruction in new year
To : 4J Staff <4j_priority_mail@4j.lane.edu>

— DO NOT FORWARD —

Team,

Getting kids back to school in-person, safely for our students and staff, is a high priority for Oregon and for 4J.

Lane County currently does not meet the public health requirements to return to school in a hybrid model, but we are planning for the future.

Limited In-Person Instruction:

We have been providing some in-person supports to a very limited number of students throughout the fall, and are planning to increase this to support more students on-site in the new year.

This is planned to begin the week of Jan. 19, start with a small number of students—selected based on multiple measures, including access, academic, and social emotional needs—and increase over time.

Some staff will be required to work with students on-site. Staff providing limited in-person supports will need to be on-site in buildings a little in advance, the week of Jan. 11, to be prepared for on-site instruction, including training for health and safety protocols. Your supervisor will be in contact if this affects you.

Hybrid Learning Model:

We also have been planning for a return to school buildings in a hybrid model in the new year. In the hybrid learning model, groups of students will attend school on-site and online in alternating weeks. (Staff will work on-site with both groups of students, not alternate between work and home.)

This will *not* begin immediately at the start of January, when we return from winter break. Hybrid will be phased in starting Feb. 1 or later, when public health conditions allow.

Grades K–2: Starting Feb. 1, start of Semester 2
Grades 3–5: Phased in following younger grades

Grades 6–12: Starting Mar. 29, start of Trimester 3

These dates are potential and may be delayed based on public health conditions.

Adjusting for Hybrid and Online Options:

Currently all students are learning online, but once hybrid begins, that will change. Families were given the option of having their student return to learning on-site in a hybrid model when it begins (“same school hybrid”), or continuing learning 100% online and connected with their current school (“same school online”), or attending the Eugene Online Academy.

To make this work at the elementary level, students who chose the “same school online” learning pathway will need to be grouped into online classrooms separate from the students who will attend school in person half of the time. (This applies only to elementary, *not* middle and high schools.)

Elementary classes will be reconfigured to support the hybrid and online student learning pathways, starting February 1, the start of the new semester. Teaching staff will be added to accommodate the two options and enable small on-site classroom cohorts for physical distancing. Some students will change to a different teacher, and most same school online students will be in blended grades. This elementary class reconfiguration will happen on February 1, even if the return to on-site learning is delayed due to public health conditions.

More detailed plans about instructional models for accommodating hybrid in-person, hybrid at-home, and all-online learners are being developed and will be shared in more detail in January.

Our priorities remain your health and safety, and our students’ health, wellbeing, and learning. As we plan toward a return to learning on-site, please talk with your supervisor if you have questions or concerns about your assignment, worksite, or health and safety protocols.

We will share an update with parents and the public this evening. We will let you know when that message has gone out. **Please do not share these dates and information before then.**

Be well,
Cydney

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Cydney Vandercar
Interim Superintendent
Eugene School District 4J

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